

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM**

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT AND  
LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in the  
COMMERCIAL ROOM, BORDERS TEXTILE  
TOWERHOUSE, HAWICK on 18 November 2014 at  
6.30 p.m.

-----

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), W. McAteer, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, R. Smith.  
Community Councillors Mrs G. Crew (Denholm), Mr C. Griffiths (Hobkirk), Mr M. Grieve  
(Burnfoot), Mrs M. Short (Hawick), Mr T. Stevenson (Upper Teviot and Borthwick Water).  
Apologies:- Councillors A. Cranston, Mr W. Roberts (Denholm), Inspector C. Wood.  
In Attendance:- Community Sergeant R. Noble (Police Scotland), Station Commander R. Bell (Scottish  
Fire & Rescue Service) Community Engagement Officer (C. Malster), Neighbourhood  
Area Manager (A. Finnie) Democratic Services Officers (J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 7 in attendance.

-----

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

**MINUTE**

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 21 October 2014. With reference to paragraph 11, Mrs Crew asked that the minute be amended to read that she had attended on behalf of Denholm and District Community Council and not Mrs Roberts.

**DECISION**

**AGREED and signed by the Chairman, subject to the above amendment.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE**

3. The Neighbourhood Area Manager, Mr Finnie, was in attendance and confirmed the Billy Goat machine would be delivered by the end of the week.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**SATISFACTION SURVEY**

4. The Strategic Community Engagement Officer, Mrs C Malster, was in attendance and reported on the outcome of the questionnaire, circulated at the August meeting of the Area Forum. Ms Malster advised that four responses had been received and these had been positive. Feedback showed that the items reported were considered relevant and informative, that the Forums were worthwhile and should continue. Recommendations highlighted the requirement for a hearing loop to ensure that all venues were DDA compliant; agendas to be circulated 14 days in advance of the meeting; round table introductions at each meeting and suggestion slips for future items to be discussed at Forum meetings. The Forum welcomed the recommendations and suggested that once the results from all Area Forums had been received, a good practice guide be prepared and circulated.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the results of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum Satisfaction Survey.**

### **LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2015 – TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE**

5. There had been circulated copies of the proposed local public holidays for 2015 in Teviot and Liddesdale.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to determine the Public Holidays for 2015 as set out in Appendix (i) to this Minute.**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS**

6. The Neighbourhood Area Manager, Mr Finnie, was in attendance and circulated a spreadsheet showing progress on the Small Scheme works and Quality of Life Scheme. Mr Finnie advised that in the Hawick and Hermitage Ward the shelter had been installed at the Wellogate Cemetery, the painting works had started on the railings at Green Terrace and would be completed in the spring; orders had been placed for refurbishment of railings at Weensland Road and replumbing of the fence at Waverley Walk. In the Hawick and Denholm Ward the notice board at Burnfoot had been installed; refreshing of road markings at Wilton Park area would be completed by the end of November and repainting of the Denholm public toilets would be completed for the opening in March.
7. With regard to the Quality of Life Scheme, the Billy Goat machine had been purchased and would be delivered by the end of the week: the repairs to the flagstones within the car park at the Civic Space had been estimated at £1,925.00 which would be funded from the Quality of Life budget. Mr Finnie advised that he had received a request for the acquisition and installation of a defibrillator and cabinet at Hermitage Hall which would be stored in an external cabinet at the hall. The cost of the defibrillator and storage cabinet was £1,580.00. Mr Finnie reported that the remaining Quality of Life budget was £5,235.00 (Hawick and Hermitage) and £8,740.00 (Hawick and Denholm). The Small Schemes remaining budget was £2,981.00 (Hawick and Denholm) and £3,059.00 (Hawick and Hermitage).

## **DECISION**

**(a) NOTED**

**(b) AGREED to fund from the Quality of Life budget, the purchase of a defibrillator and cabinet to be stored at Hermitage Hall.**

### **FINGERPOST SIGNS**

8. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 21 October 2014, the Chairman advised that the company which had provided the signs as part of the town centre regeneration project, had gone into administration, another company had supplied the three new signs and there had been some small differences in style due to the change of supplier. The Forum decided that as the original company were operating again, a price be obtained for the replacement of the three fingerpost signs.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to obtain a price for replacing the three fingerpost signs to the specification of the original signs.**

### **POLICE SCOTLAND**

9. There had been circulated a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 18 November 2014. Community Sergeant Noble was in attendance and reported that the trend in the reduction of recorded crime by 12 crimes compared favourably with other areas. The report highlighted that there were 33 individuals at various stages of the anti-social behaviour process. During October there were five anti-social behaviour fixed penalty tickets issued. There had been three seizures of alcohol and three positive drugs searches.

Three conditional offers were issued to motorists for speeding offences and one for failing to wear a seatbelt. Sergeant Noble advised that there had been a spate of break-ins reported along the Mansefield Road area, enquiries were continuing. Sergeant Noble continued that there had been a report of a male committing fraud at the Grapes Hotel in Newcastleton. Through the efforts of the community officer, the male was apprehended and taken into custody. Dedicated foot patrols would continue to deter and deal with youth antisocial behaviour over the coming weeks and in the run-up to Christmas. A festive campaign would also increase in the number of road checks being carried out, visits to licensed premises and liaison with schools in relation to school dances. The Forum advised Sergeant Noble that a number of drain covers had been stolen which he would investigate. In the Lower Mansefield area there had been burst drains and they would be replaced. The Chairman advised that there had been new software installed to improve the 101 service.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

10. Station Manager Russell Bell had circulated a report on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity for October 2014. There had been two accidental chimney fires, one open fire occurrence and three special service occurrences. Unwanted fire signals were being addressed by phased intervention which identified premises which were producing 'false alarms', provided guidance on how to reduce in number operationally; this could result in a reduction in the number of fire engines which would attend a repeat offender.

**DECISION  
NOTED the report.**

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

11. There were no open questions.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

12. Mrs Short from Hawick Community Council, reported that they had co-opted a new member. The Council had created two new sub groups – Garden of Remembrance and Park Regeneration. A High Street Steering Group had been set up and they were to discuss regeneration of the High Street.
13. Mr Grieve from Burnfoot Community Council, reported that they still required members. A productive meeting with Police Scotland, regarding Burnfoot priorities, had been held. Escape would be attending the next meeting and they were hoping this would assist in engaging young people.
14. Mr Stevenson from Upper Teviot and Borthwick Water Community Council, reported that there was still a problem with tree bark at New Mill layby. There were still flooding problems on the A7, BEAR and the estate owner had investigated but there had been no repair work carried out and the area of road was dangerous.
15. Mr Griffiths from Hobkirk Community Council, reported that a new member had been co-opted. Councillor Cranston had been assisting with road safety issues. The windfarm proposals continued to dominate meetings.
16. Mrs Crew, representing Denholm and District Community Council, advised that they had received more nominations than vacancies for co-option of new members. A Youth Club has started and it was hoped would continue.

**DECISION  
NOTED the reports.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17. Agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 18 November 2014 at 6.30 pm in the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Hawick.

*The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.*